

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1-15, 17-40, and 42-59 are allowed, and that claims 16 and 41 would be allowable if claim 16 would be rewritten to overcome the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and if the rejection of claim 41 based on obviousness-type double patenting would be overcome, respectively.

I. Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

In the Office Action, claim 41 was provisionally rejected in a provisional, non-statutory, obviousness-type double patenting rejection based on claims 53-55 of co-pending U.S. patent application no. 10/821,838. Applicants have submitted herewith a Terminal Disclaimer referencing co-pending U.S. patent application no. 10/821,838. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the non-statutory, obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claim 41.

II. Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

In the Office Action, claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended claim 16 to depend from claim 15 rather than claim 14. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection of claim 16.

III. Conclusion

For at least the reasons set forth above, claims 1-59 should be allowable, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of the claim rejections, and allowance of claims 1-59.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation might advance prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (571) 203-2739.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action contains assertions concerning the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether those assertions are addressed specifically herein, Applicants respectfully decline to automatically subscribe to them.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 6-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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